

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

THE GIFT OF OPPORTUNITY

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2003

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to read the essay of Laura Mendoza, a member of the Valley Center Teenage Republican Club.

Like every Friday morning, my mother had snuggled into bed with me; soon I was to get up and go to school. Only, on this morning, I was quite lazy and pleaded with my mom so that she would allow me to stay home. Like any other day she simply gave me a "no." It had been worth a shot! As we laid in bed she said to me, "Laura, you must strive for your goals and never allow anyone to prohibit you from following them. Take advantage of every moment and savor it, for you do not know what may lie ahead." What could possibly make her think I would understand her words at the age of eleven?

Now, I'm seventeen and I understand what she was implying. Throughout the years I have learned about my mother. My mother was unable to go to school due to many reasons, none that she could control. To begin with there wasn't a school in sight for about 20 miles and she had no transportation to get there. By the time there was a school that was somewhat near she was eight and her father was very unsupportive. He once told her not to worry about getting an education, instead she was to stay home and help in the fields and with the animals. "Besides" he said, "you don't need to worry about being educated because you're going to end up married to some guy who will provide for you and your family. All you need to worry about is taking care of the house and children."

I can see that my mother was denied a natural part of life. My mother was brought up in Mexico, where education is nothing big. It's like a luxury; if you have the time, then you can go to school; if not, you must stay home and attend to the responsibilities there. Education in Mexico has not changed much over the years, only four of my cousins go to school, and they're all boys. The females in my family are either married or living at home, helping out their parents.

I appreciate the many sacrifices my parents have done for my siblings and me. They have done everything possible and impossible so that we can receive a good education and so that one day we don't have to go through the same things and our own families will succeed. My parents are my inspiration. I know for a fact that if my parents had decided to stay in Mexico, all that I have achieved would have been unrealized. This is why education is so sacred to me. In my opinion, education is the key to my goals and I know that my parents weren't wrong when they saw something special in this land of opportunity. That is why they decided to bring our family here. I will not let my parents' sacrifice or the opportunity given to me go to waste. I now understand my mother's words and will live by them for the rest of my life.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING RAMSEY NABIL ALLOUSH

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2003

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, whereas, Ramsey Alloush graduated from John F. Kennedy High School on June 7, 2003; and

Whereas, Ramsey Alloush has demonstrated a commitment to education; and

Whereas, Ramsey Alloush should be commended for reaching this academic milestone;

Therefore, I join with the residents of the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in honoring and congratulating Ramsey Nabil Alloush for his outstanding accomplishment.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF BRYN MAWR FIRE COMPANY

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2003

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Bryn Mawr Fire Company of Bryn Mawr, PA on its 100th anniversary.

Almost a century ago, citizens of Bryn Mawr, Haverford and Rosemont came together to form a fire company. The Montgomery County Court of Common Pleas approved the Certificate of Incorporation for the Bryn Mawr Fire Company on December 21, 1903, even before the Township in which it was located was chartered. The Company acquired its first horse-drawn engine the following year and the fire house was dedicated 2 years later in May of 1906.

The Bryn Mawr Fire Company has served its community in exemplary fashion over the past 100 years and today there are almost 40 volunteer firefighters in the Company. The Company responds to over 500 calls per year throughout Lower Merion, Radnor and Haverford Townships.

The volunteers of the Bryn Mawr Fire Company take every aspect of their job very seriously. Members drill every Monday night and participate in a live burn drill each month. Firefighters from the Company attend schools and conferences all across the country. The Company sends members into the local schools to talk about fire prevention and hosts an open house every year to educate the public about fire safety.

For the past 100 years, the citizens of Bryn Mawr and the surrounding communities have been able to depend on the courageous men and women of the Bryn Mawr Fire Company. I encourage my colleagues to join me in saluting the Bryn Mawr Fire Company on reaching this important milestone.

ESSAY OF MICHELLE WILKINSON

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2003

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to read the essay of Michelle Wilkinson, a member of the Valley Center Teenage Republican Club. "The Republican Party embraces many noteworthy values, including personal responsibility, service, and integrity. Throughout my life, I have been taught to follow these principles. As a student in an AP Government class and as a member of the Teenage Republican Club, I have come to realize how these values have influenced my life.

A major Republican value is personal responsibility. From a political view, this means that the government should only do what individuals can not do by themselves. To me, personal responsibility is a way of living so that I am a contributing member of society rather than a burden. In my life, I have taken the accountability for my studies and other extracurricular activities. Because I know that I am responsible for my own actions, I have been able to excel in school, and have been accepted to the school of my choice. I have tried to make the most of my opportunity to attend school and believe that my efforts have been rewarding and worthwhile. As a Republican, I hope to be able to elect officers who believe in personal responsibility and strive to create laws that promote self-reliance in American citizens. I plan to major in History Education, and, as a teacher, I want my students to know how important this ideal was to our founding fathers. I will personally teach my children and my students to be conscientious and charitable members of the community in which they live. People who have cultivated an independent lifestyle are better able to give service to others.

Service to others is an integral part of the Republican ideal. When individuals voluntarily give their time and means, resources are used efficiently where they are truly needed. Government entitlements are not conducive to a strong work ethic and should only be depended upon for true emergencies, not as a planned lifestyle. Some of my service experiences include: registering voters, organizing a concert for an elderly care center, quilting blankets for a women's shelter, and organizing a dance for mentally and physically handicapped adults. Although no one expected or demanded my service, they were all very grateful for my time and talents, which I give freely because of the joy I receive in return. I know that I will continue to give my time and resources how and when I choose. I believe that I should be able to choose how my resources are used so that I know they are being used wisely and effectively. When we are compelled to give our resources through high taxes, we are deprived of the feelings of generosity and benevolence. I will continue to

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

use my influence and my vote to elect Republicans who share this ideal.

Finally, integrity is a vital Republican value. We must elect officials who will do what they believe is right even if it is not popular or easy. Karl G. Maeser, an educator, once said,

I have been asked what I mean by my word of honor . . . Place me behind prison walls . . . there is a possibility that in some way or another I may be able to escape, but stand me on that floor and draw a chalk line around me and have me give my world of honor never to cross it. Can I get out? No, never! I'd die first!

We need public officials who will abide by their word of honor, not the shifting of polls and public opinion. I have sought to be honest with all people, even if it is not to my advantage. The reward of integrity is trust, which is broken much easier than it is built. Our country has suffered from the lack of integrity in our leaders, I hope that we can find leaders who can restore honor and integrity to public offices. As a mother and a teacher, I will instill the value of honesty into my children and students. I will teach them that their word of honor defines their character.

I know that there are many problems with our current system of government. I also believe, however, that they can be reformed if the ideals of responsibility, service, and integrity, are utilized. Despite imperfections, I know that our country is the best in the world. I am grateful and proud to be an American."

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING BASEL ALLOUSH

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2003

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker,

Whereas, Basel Alloush graduated from Kent State University on December 14, 2002; and

Whereas, Basel Alloush earned a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration and Marketing; and

Whereas, Basel Alloush has demonstrated a strong devotion to academics; and

Whereas, Basel Alloush should be commended for reaching this milestone;

Therefore, I join with the residents of the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in honoring and congratulating Basel Alloush for his distinguished achievement.

COMMENDING ALEXANDRA SCOTT FOR HER EFFORTS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CANCER

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2003

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker; I rise today to commend my constituent, 7-year-old Alexandra Scott, for the work she is doing to raise money for those living with cancer.

Alex was diagnosed with neuroblastoma, a cancer of the nervous system, when she was just a year old. Six years later, she has had six surgeries and still undergoes chemo-

therapy treatments at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

When Alex was four, she told her mother that she wanted to have a lemonade stand and give the money that she made to her hospital in Connecticut, where they lived at the time. In July of 2000, Alex started her first lemonade stand and raised over \$2000. Shortly thereafter, the Scott family moved to Wynnewood, Pennsylvania. Each summer, Alex has opened her lemonade stand with proceeds going to help others battling cancer.

So far, Alex has raised over \$80,000 for cancer research. Money has been donated to Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Connecticut Children's Medical Center, and Toireasa's Dream, a neuroblastoma research fund set up in memory of Alex's friend, Toireasa Barry. The Philadelphia Foundation recently presented Alex with its "Philanthropist of the Year" award.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in applauding Alexandra Scott on her accomplishments and in sending her our prayers for her recovery. May she continue to serve as a role model for all of us.

ESSAY BY HEATHER MACPHEE

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2003

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to read the essay of Heather MacPhee, a member of the Valley Center Teenage Republican Club.

"As a sophomore at Valley Center High School, I had a basic idea of where I stood in the world. Despite my lack of experience and knowledge, I knew that I valued being a conservative woman in a time of uncertainty and compromise. I was confident in my beliefs, but could not effectively defend or even explain my reasoning. That was the year I became involved with the Teenage Republican Club, and now I have no doubts that I have the knowledge to proudly register as a Republican voter.

Two seniors I admired and looked up to introduced me to the Teenage Republican Club. Melissa Hill and Nicolette Lawrence were smart young women that I respected very much. I hoped to be like them when I was a senior and was extremely flattered when they recommended me for the 2-1 Federation for Republican Women Advocacy Workshop. While at the Advocacy, I was exposed to the true enthusiasm of the Republican Party. During the short two days in Sacramento, I learned from party members, including state legislators, where Republican stood on big issues and the little known issues. I learned from first hand experience how our state government operates and the importance of individuals in our society. Since the Advocacy, I have done my best to be involved in my political surroundings.

T.A.R.S. has given me the opportunity to fulfill my desires to play an active role in local government. Until last week, I was unable to vote, but through T.A.R.S. I assisted other people in taking advantage of their right to vote. I have registered voters at North County Fair and encouraged seniors around me to cast their votes. I have also assisted with the Federated Republican Women's Club fundraiser so that they could adequately publicize, encourage, educate, and spread Republican ideals. I personally feel the most satisfaction from being a leader, I

know that the biggest impact I will make will be through my actions and not my words. With this in mind, I attempt to live each day in accordance to my faith and values which are inherently Republican. The best expression of my thoughts happens to be from the Republican Oath:

"I believe that Americans value and should preserve their feeling of national strength and pride, and at the same time, share with people everywhere a desire for peace and freedom and the extension of human rights throughout the world. Finally, I believe that the Republican Party is the best vehicle for translating these ideals into positive and successful principles of government."

As I grow older, my appreciation for the freedoms of this country and the enthusiasm behind my beliefs will only become greater. I hope to take advantage of all opportunities to vote and never lose sight of the direction of our government. I will continue to serve our nation through my career and participation in the political process. I will also continue to proudly support the Grand Old Party.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING MONSIGNOR PAUL E. METZGER ON THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF ORINATION

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2003

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker,

Whereas, Monsignor Paul E. Metzger celebrated the 60th anniversary of his ordination on April 17, 2003; and

Whereas, Monsignor Paul E. Metzger should be commended for his faithfulness to the church; and

Whereas, Monsignor Paul E. Metzger served as a pastor for the St. John Church in Bellaire, Ohio for 26 years; and

Whereas, Monsignor Paul E. Metzger continues to serve the community of Middletown as the Director of Residential Individual Options and through his dedication to the Holy Family Parish;

Therefore, I join with the residents of the entire 18th Congressional District in recognizing Monsignor Paul E. Metzger as he celebrates the 60th Anniversary of Ordination.

DEEPLY ROOTED PRINCIPLES

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 25, 2003

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to read the essay of Patrick Anibaldi, a member of the Valley Center Teenage Republican Club. He is currently a senior at Valley Center High School.

"As an active Teenage Republican Club (TARS) member for the past two years, I have come to realize what the Republican tenets are all about. The Republican Party has been around for quite a while now proving that it can stand the test of time. Over these years the GOP has also shown that it's economic and social policy are fully capable of leading this country into times of economic expansion